

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 7 were pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 - 7 were rejected.

In this Amendment, Claims 1 – 7 are amended. No new matter has been introduced as a result of this amendment.

Accordingly, Claims 1- 7 are at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims

Claims 1 - 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Prasad et al (hereafter “Prasad”) (U.S. Patent Number 5,956,718). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a transmitting apparatus for transmitting a hierarchical structure of a directory for hierarchically managing locations of contents data. The transmitting apparatus comprises a managing unit, a detecting unit, and a transmitting unit.

As amended, Claim 1 recites that the position information includes a schema version, with the schema version being a value that changes correspondingly to a change to the hierarchical structure of the directory. That is, the position information includes a value that represents the number of changes to the hierarchical structure of the directory.

Applicants maintain that Prasad fails to teach or disclose that the position information includes a schema version, with the schema version being a value that changes correspondingly to a change to the hierarchical structure of the directory.

The Examiner states, by pointing to Columns 5 and 6 and namely Tables 1 and 2, that Prasad teaches that each move entry structure contains a version which indicates changes to the hierarchical structure of the directory.

However, Prasad states that (emphasis added):

“4. T sends a Start Move Tree request to U. U checks the request against its expected details. It also checks that its software version--and the versions of servers identified in the back links of the destination partition root object (F)--are high enough that they support moving a subtree. If all is well, it sends a Success reply to T. In the reply, the Partition Overlap flag is set if partitions A and F are the same partition. The structure of the Start Move Tree NDS Protocol verb is provided in Table 6.”

See Column 9, lines 58 – 67. Prasad further states that (emphasis added):

“A Join Operation is initiated by sending a DSAJoinPartition request to the server holding the child partition's master replica. The Partition Root Entry ID field in the request identifies the partition root entry of the child partition. The Server holding the child's master replica calls DSAResolveName to locate the parent partition's master replica. Next, the server preferably checks that: (i) the request is valid, (ii) the child partition is not involved in another partition operation, and (iii) the software versions on the servers involved support joining the partitions. If all is okay, the server sends a DSASStartjoin request to the server holding the master replica of the parent partition.”

See Column 19, lines 39 – 50. In addition, Prasad recites in Claim 2 that (emphasis added):

“2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the checking step comprises one or more of the following steps:
(a) enforcing access control;
(b) enforcing directory schema rules; or (c) checking whether a software version can support the requested change.”

Thus, in Prasad the terminology “version” is utilized to refer to software versions used to determine compatibility between the servers involved in the exchange of information about hierarchical structures or partitions of directories. Hence, Prasad fails to teach or disclose that the position information includes a value that represents the number of changes to the hierarchical structure of the directory.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is allowable over Prasad, as is dependent Claim 2 for at least the same reasons.

Each one of Claims 3 – 7 recites a distinguishable limitation analogous to that of Claim 1. Thus, Claims 3 – 7 are also allowable over Prasad for at least the same reasons.

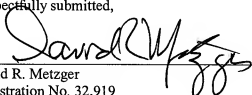
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these claim rejections under U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that Claims 1 – 7 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
David R. Metzger
Registration No. 32,919
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
(312) 876-8000